



### Amendments to the Specification

[0074] By inspection of Fig. 9, it will be seen that aluminum shaped tube member 80 has end portions 90 having a smaller diameter than the diameter of the region or portion 94 located between the end portions. Having the larger diameter has the benefit of increasing the stiffness of tube member 80. This in turn can increase the critical speed and resonance frequency of the drive shaft to a level that eliminates or greatly diminishes noise vibration in the vehicle at normal cruising speeds. Also, end portions 90 have a greater wall thickness than portion 94. Having a greater wall thickness at the end 90 of ~~shaped tube member 80 has another benefit in that it improves fastening or weldability of~~ the tube to the yoke members. That is, welding can lower the strength of tube and thus the thicker wall compensates for any lowered strength.